

Application No. 10/705,778
Amendment dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2005

Docket No.: 20050/0200475-US0

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended): An interlabial pad being formed into a substantially elongated shape having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and being provided with a size, weight and flexibility such that ~~the pad is pinched and held partially or totally inadapted for use between the labia without forcing,~~

wherein said interlabial pad is provided with a body side face orientated to a body side and an opposite side face to the body side orientated to a garment side;

wherein said interlabial pad comprises a mini sheet piece striding from one portion to another portion at each side edge of both side edges taking the longitudinal direction of the interlabial pad as a central axis, and a finger insertion opening formed between the mini sheet piece and said opposite side face to the body side, for directly securing the opening of the fingerbreadth of a wearer;

wherein said mini sheet piece is disposed in a way to cover at least a portion (finger application point) of said opposite side face to the body side corresponding to an area (application point) of said surface side sheet applied to a predetermined position between the labia of the wearer; and

wherein said finger insertion opening serves for guiding a fingertip of the wearer to the application point.

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2. (currently amended): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said mini sheet piece is disposed ~~nearer to~~ in the vicinity of one end in said longitudinal direction of said interlabial pad.
3. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said mini sheet piece is disposed on said opposite side face to the body side of said interlabial pad in a way to form a pocket shape finger insertion space.
4. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein at least a part of said mini sheet piece is stretchable or elastically extensible at least in respect to said lateral direction of said interlabial pad.
5. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said mini sheet piece has a bonding portion in a portion striding across said opposite side face to the body side.
6. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, said interlabial pad comprising
 - a surface side sheet disposed on said body side face of the interlabial pad; and
 - a back side sheet disposed on said opposite side face to the body side,
 - wherein the surface side sheet and back side sheet are bonded to contain said absorbent body; and
 - wherein said mini sheet piece and said interlabial pad are bonded at a piece-bonding portion of each side of said both sides of said interlabial pad, the piece-bonding portion being other than a sheet-bonding portion at which said surface side sheet and said back side sheet are bonded.

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7. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said mini sheet piece has a length dimension at least 10 % longer than that of said interlabial pad in said longitudinal direction of said interlabial pad.
8. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein a depth distance from a finger insertion opening in the finger insertion direction is longer than a length from a fingertip to a second joint of an index or middle finger of an ordinary woman.
9. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein a total circumferential length of an inside of said finger insertion opening is between 30 mm to 120 mm.
10. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said opposite side face to the body side of said interlabial pad is provided with extremely fine concave and convex.
11. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein an adhesive is applied to a portion of a skin contact surface defined as a portion in contact with a skin of the wearer when said interlabial pad is worn, the skin contact surface being defined on said opposite side face to the body side of said interlabial pad.
12. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, comprising an upheaval area on said body side face, the upheaval area protruding toward the body side at a central portion of the lateral direction of the body side face.
13. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said opposite side face to the body side of said interlabial pad is made of moisture permeable material.

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14. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said pad being composed of biodegradable material and/or water-soluble material and/or water dispersible material.
15. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said interlabial pad is an interlabial pad for incontinence.
16. (previously presented): The interlabial pad of claim 1, wherein said interlabial pad is an interlabial pad for absorbing vaginal discharge.
17. (original): An interlabial pad manufacturing method for manufacturing the interlabial pad of claim 5, comprising;
setting longer a pair of wings ordinarily disposed at both side portions of a sanitary napkin; and
bonding said wings to form said mini sheet piece.